

Minutes of Meeting  
State Board of Education  
September 20-21, 2001

The September meeting of the State Board of Education was held in Des Moines on September 20-21, 2001.

The Board's business meeting was held at the Grimes State Office Building, State Board Conference Room. Board members Corine Hadley, Sally Frudden, Charles Edwards, Gregory McClain, Mary Jean Montgomery and Kay Wagner were present. Board members Gene Vincent, Donald Roby and John White were not present. Also present were Department director Ted Stilwill and Department staff members Lee Tack, Gail Sullivan, Ann McCarthy, Carol Greta, Susan Anderson, Judy Jeffrey, Jan Friedel, Evelyn Anderson, Jerda Garey, Ken Mcquire, Colleen Hunt, Sandy Renegar, Susan Fischer, Kathi Slaughter, Tom Andersen, Stephanie Weeks and Beverlee Adams. Also present was Tom Paulsen, Iowa Ambassador of Education-2000, Therese Kehoe, Joe Romano, Robin Madison and Shawn Snyder, legislative staff.

President Hadley called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. Ms. Hadley called for a moment of silence in reflection of the recent terrorists' attack on America.

**Golden Dome Awards**

President Hadley and Director Stilwill presented an award for Leader of the Year to Judy Jeffrey, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education and the Employee of the Year award to Stephanie Weeks, Assistant to the Administrator of the Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation. These awards were initiated by Governor Vilsack and Lt. Governor Sally Pederson to recognize state employees with outstanding service. A special ceremony was also held in the Capitol in recognition of the exemplary service these employees have provided to their respective agencies in state government.

It was moved by Sally Frudden and seconded by Kay Wagner to approve the agenda as written.

## COMMUNICATION

There was no public comment.

### Board Member Reports

Kay Wagner indicated she had attended the Area IX superintendents' meeting where Director Stilwill had been in attendance to update and hear discussion on the progress of the teacher compensation plan. Wagner reported the actions and discussion of the Community College Licensure Task Force meeting on August 29. The task force provided an overview of the situation, background and concerns in the ongoing discussion of community college licensure. A survey had been done on what was happening on other states. The task force will meet again in October to make recommendations. This project has a December deadline for materials to be in place for legislative action.

Sally Frudden shared that Director Stilwill had been in Charles City for the teacher in-service day. An ambitious agenda to visit various education locations in the area was quite enriching. Frudden as interim chair had presided at the Community College Council meeting and discussed the actions taken by the Council.

Greg McClain – No report

Mary Jean Montgomery reported she had served as a consultant to the Education Leadership Grant—Wallace Readers Digest Foundation that held a retreat in Perry; two school districts in Iowa were planning and writing grants.

Montgomery explained her ongoing concern with the gender inequity and ethnicity in the community college program approvals. She and Greg McClain had discussed this issue with community college staff through telephone conference call. Montgomery and McClain believe a plan should be brought to the State Board to improve the gender inequity and ethnicity results in these program approvals.

Several different Board members expressed thoughts about change in this process and whether change was needed. President Hadley felt the Board should review this information and look at it again in the spring.

Corine Hadley attended the Board of Regents meeting on teacher shortage. She reported that continued work was needed on communication between PreK-12 and higher education. Hadley

encouraged the Board members to look at the Connecticut Board of Education plan for ideas to strengthening these communication lines.

### **Director's Report**

Director Stilwill reported on his visit to Charles City and the first-class childcare center that had been established in this community.

Stilwill indicated he and Judy Jeffrey were attending every superintendent's meeting in the state this fall. It is a time when teachers rededicate themselves and the discussion of teacher compensation, mentoring, and moving forward was an exciting new challenge for staff and administrators.

Ted Stilwill discussed the reduction targets for this fiscal year's budget and the implications looking into next fiscal year. These cuts are severe and will create changes in the way the Department supports education.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the August 10, 2001 meeting were approved.

#### **Program Approvals**

The Board approved the following new program approvals:

1. Postsecondary program through Iowa Central Community College – Commercial Construction
2. Postsecondary program through Iowa Central Community College – Industrial Machine Maintenance and Repair
3. Postsecondary program through Iowa Lakes Community College – Agricultural Power Mechanics Technology
4. Postsecondary program through Iowa Lakes Community College – Auto Collision Repair Technology
5. Postsecondary program through Iowa Lakes Community College – Construction Technology
6. Postsecondary program through Iowa Lakes Community College – Motorcycle Mechanic and Repair Technology
7. Postsecondary program through Iowa Lakes Community College – Small Engine and Mechanic Repair Technology
8. Postsecondary program through Kirkwood Community College – Micro Computer Support

#### **Appeal Decisions**

The following decisions were approved:

- **In re Courtney & Gabriel Hagen.** Daniel & Christy Hagen, Appellants, v. Lewis Central Community School District, Appellee. The decision affirms the Lewis Central Community School District decision denying the Appellants' open enrollment application of May 21, 2001 for Courtney & Gabriel Hagen.
- **In re Brendan Madden Grady.** Tim Grady & Kathleen Granger, Appellants, v. Boyer Valley Community School District, Appellee. The decision affirms the decision of the Boyer Valley Community School District Board of Directors denying Appellants' open enrollment application for Brendan Grady of May 21, 2001.
- **In re Alec North.** Virginia North, Appellant, v. Waterloo Community School District, Appellee. The April 23, 2001 decision of the Board of Directors of the Waterloo Community School District, denying Appellant's open enrollment application for Alec North was affirmed.
- **In re Leah Haak.** Jessica Whitten, Appellant, v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, Appellee. The decision affirms the July 10, 2001 decision of the Board of Directors of the Des Moines Independent Community School District, denying Appellant's open enrollment request for Leah Haak.
- **In re Evan & Ratha Davis.** Jamison & Tammy Davis, Appellants, v. Seymour Community School District, Appellee. The decision reverses the February 19 and May 21, 2001 decisions of the Board of Directors of the Seymour Community School District denying the open enrollment applications for Evan and Ratha Davis.
- **In re Megan Watts.** Mark D. & Lisa J. Watts, Appellants, v. Lynnville-Sully Community School District, Appellee. The May 21, 2001 decision of the Board of Directors of the Lynnville-Sully Community School District denying Appellants' open enrollment request for Megan Watts, was reversed.

### **Paraeducator Preparation Program Approval**

The Board approved the paraeducator preparation program submitted by Kirkwood Community College for five years.

### **Accreditation to Add Grade Three to St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School**

The State Board approved accreditation to add grade three to St. Francis of Assisi Elementary School in the Des Moines Diocese.

## **State Board Equity Recognition Awards**

Tom Andersen, consultant in the Bureau of Administration and School Improvement Services, coordinated the presentation of these awards. Board members Kay Wagner, Sally Frudden and Mary Jean Montgomery presented the following recognition awards:

### **1. SOUP Group: Bettendorf High School**

The SOUP Group was initiated by students at Bettendorf High School who wanted to minimize the barriers which divided people at their school. Intolerance of diversity headed their list of problems to attack. They initiated a weekly forum to discuss student concerns, issues and incidents related to diversity that occurred in the cafeteria, the hallways, the school grounds and off-campus. The students developed skits dealing with real life diversity and performed them at elementary and middle schools in the district. A dialogue about diversity follows the skits. SOUP Group members seek to advocate, teach and model respect for diversity.

### **2. Holy Family School: Sioux City Diocese**

Holy Family School is a diverse Catholic school serving three inner city parishes in Sioux City. The school used resources obtained through their participation in the **Success4** program to implement efforts to meet the needs of their diverse student population. These efforts include: (1) A monthly tri-lingual newsletter; (2) Multicultural programming that encourages students to explore their own cultural heritage as well as that of their peers; (3) An ESL summer school; (4) Adult education programs to enhance computer and English language skills; (5) Partners Over Time, a program where students assist senior citizens to learn computer skills; and (6) A preschool and latchkey childcare program to meet the needs of working families with children.

### **3. Jefferson Elementary School: Davenport School District**

Jefferson Elementary School is a K-5 elementary school with 483 students. One hundred four of these students are English language learners who are within a learning environment that supports both second language and native language acquisition. All students participate in the World Language Curriculum to develop their language skills in both English and Spanish. A strong technology strand in the curriculum provides 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students access to our diverse global community via laptop computers and Internet connections in their homes. This technology also allows parents and families to stay connected to the learning environment. The school also has an active parent/community center, a strong

civility/citizenship component and maintains a strict adherence to research-based instructional programs and time on task.

**1. North Scott Junior High School: 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Disabilities Awareness Unit**

This exemplary program for 7<sup>th</sup> graders at North Scott Junior High School lays a solid foundation for lifetime acceptance of individuals with disabilities as equal members of society. Students are exposed to a wide variety of experiential learning and teaching opportunities related to disabilities. They move from seeing individuals with disabilities as “special people” to seeing them as very real persons with real lives like their own.

**Program Approval Discussion**

Jerda Garey, Chief, Bureau of Technical and Vocational Education gave a brief overview and explanation of how the program approval process is designed and how it works in response to questions from Mary Jean Montgomery and Greg McClain. President Hadley indicated this discussion and reviewing the sequence of the program approvals and how they are handled might need to be moved to a future meeting.

**Appeal Decision**

**In re Samuel Stuelke.** Dixon Stuelke, Appellant, v. Waterloo Community School District, Appellee.

Susan Anderson, administrative law judge, offered a brief context of the Stuelke decision to bring all members up-to-date. The proposed decision brought to the Board in August was vacated and the Board asked that it be rewritten with a different result. The proposed decision brought to the Board

at this meeting was sent to all parties on August 23, 2001 and no notice of appeal was received during the twenty-day time period.

It is concluded in this decision that the Open Enrollment Law does include kindergarten preparatory programs for age-eligible students. Board members asked for clarification on the definition of continuous education and how Price Lab School fit into that definition.

Motion: It was moved by Charlie Edwards and seconded by Kay Wagner that the Board approve the administrative law judge's decision in the appeal of Samuel Stuelke and the Waterloo Community School District.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously. The decision reverses the January 22, 2001 decision of the Waterloo Community School District Board of Directors to deny the open enrollment application of Samuel Stuelke.

### **Ambassador for Education Report**

Tom Paulsen, 2000 Teacher of the Year, reported to the Board on his year as Ambassador for Education.

He described his early teaching experience. He summarized his major activities, including visits to schools and colleges, conference and workshop presentations, and appearances before community organizations. Paulsen identified the high point of his year to be the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the National Teacher of the Year Program. All 56 state or territorial Teachers of the Year and former national Teachers of the Year attended the Washington Recognition of the National Teacher of the Year in Washington, D.C. Meeting with children, colleagues, administrators and parents in their respective setting was also a most rewarding, learning and satisfying experience.

Paulsen concluded by describing wonderful things about education in Iowa. He feels that as educators, business leaders, communities, parents and students together we are truly what is right with education. What we do in this business each and every day, gives us the opportunity to touch lives-- not just lives in our own community but beyond.

### **Performance-Based Practitioner Preparation at Central College**

Dr. Phil George, Chair, Department of Education, Beverly Brand and Pamela Ewe, faculty members, reviewed the performance-based teacher education program offered at Central. The college is making strides in changing the goals and competencies for teacher education program students. The goals are set out in categories for students, faculty and the Central College community. The ten goals are as follows:

- Goal 1: Demonstrate integrated knowledge of the content, organization, values, and tools of inquiry for the discipline of education.
- Goal 2: Use and model effective communication skills, thinking skills, and creative expression.

- Goal 3: Understand the developmental characteristics of PreK, K-12 students and how these characteristics impact learning and achievement.
- Goal 4: Understand and respect diversity of thought, background, and inherent abilities of learning and life experiences in an interdependent, global society.
- Goal 5: Plan and implement learning activities that incorporate a variety of instructional and assessment strategies that are equitable, adaptable, and a reflection of best practice in education.
- Goal 6: Understand the role of technology in education and effectively apply technology throughout the PreK-12 curriculum.
- Goal 7: Understand the dynamics of PreK-12 individual and group behavior and apply classroom management strategies to create meaningful learning environments that assist students in development of self-concept, self-control, and self-motivation.
- Goal 8: Develop collaborative relationships that enhance the teaching/learning experience.
- Goal 9: Demonstrate commitment to life-long learning and professional development.
- Goal 10: Demonstrate leadership and ethical responsibility to PreK-12 students, parents, colleagues, and community.

These goals and their respective competencies give the basis for a strong leadership and development path for teaching candidates coming out of the Central College program. Part of this new system uses a reflective evaluation and self-assessment. Students also develop personal portfolios.

Dr. George identified some of the benefits of the program. It provides a stronger system of accountability, both internal and external, and provides students with lots of opportunity for self-reflection and autonomy. Central College has spent three years developing this system; with a huge staff commitment.

### **AEA Reorganization Study**

Judy Jeffrey, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education and Lee Tack, Administrator, Division of Financial and Information Services shared with the Board the results of the AEA Reorganization Study.

Jeffrey addressed how AEA systems had evolved and the changes made in the system over the last 26 years. The Department developed an accreditation process for AEAs, which affirmed their leadership role with school improvement and delineated the



standards and indicators of quality that were to be met. Six core service areas were established for each AEA. All of the AEAs have been accredited on a three-year cycle, with a submission of an accreditation plan the first year, annual updates, and an accreditation visit from a team comprised of DE personnel, AEA personnel from other AEAs, and local school administrative staff. The accreditation cycle has now been changed to a five-year cycle which provides the time needed for AEAs to adequately implement the activities designed to meet the AEA established goals to meet the accreditation standards and respond to customer needs.

Ms. Jeffrey presented the following four recommendations that had been presented to the administrators and boards of the AEAs:

1. Some AEAs be reconfigured through voluntary consolidation of agencies.
2. AEAs make internal changes to have the capacity, personnel, and other resources required to provide services consistent with the accreditation standards and schools/school districts' needs.
3. The DE immediately undertakes a study with legislative recommendations to provide equitable funding across the AEAs. Area education agencies must have not only the financial capacity, but also the flexibility to provide the programs and services to meet their customer needs and the needs of the state.
4. The DE in cooperation with the AEAs actively pursues those state needs that will benefit from a coordinated and cohesive statewide network.

In summary, Jeffrey indicated that some of the recommendations might well raise the level of concern among the customers of AEAs and the AEAs themselves. It is with a firm conviction that the AEAs have indicated a need to continuously improve. AEA employees and board members are very cognizant of the changing expectations of the state, of their ability to meet accreditation standards with higher accountability requirements, and of the changing financial conditions caused by changing demographics. She said the Department stands ready to assist AEAs in continually updating and adding to the information needs to continually improve the system.

## **Iowa Area Education Agency/Department of Education System Design Committee Recommendations**

Administrator Judy Jeffrey, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, discussed the System Design Committee recommendations. Jeffrey indicated committee members had been examining the current system and the desired effectiveness, efficiency and equity of the system to determine if and what short- and long-term changes are needed in policies, working relationships, and communication channels. The committee has identified several issues within the AEA and DE system that they believe are important and need to be addressed. The committee met and formed the following two purposes:

- To provide tactical direction for coordination and communication about programs and resources of the AEAs and the DE that meet current and future needs of LEAs.
- To recommend short and long term policy direction that enables the AEAs and the DE to become more effective in supporting the work of local schools and school districts.

The committee also developed a collection of operating principles. These operating principles can be viewed as a vision and a set of beliefs that exist about the AEA and DE system and what needs to happen in order to have a more effective system. An oversight committee will also be named with expanded membership. Membership will take place through appointment by the Director of Education with input from the members served. Membership will rotate on a staggered basis.

The committee recommendations are designed to maximize the effectiveness of the state system of education. Jeffrey explained that the AEAs, the statewide system of AEAs, and DE must continue to seek collaborative ways to improve and support the system. Also the AEAs and DE must consider the mutual system as an interdependent entity. The partnership will work collaboratively towards the goal of increased student achievement and support.

### **Policy Development Agenda; Board Retreat Follow-up**

Gail Sullivan, Department Chief of Staff, presented a proposed policy development agenda. At the State Board Retreat in June, State Board members identified priorities for their Policy Development Agenda for the coming year. The priorities are organized into the following categories:

#### Emerging Policy Issues – Study Stage

1. Strengthening Education in Rural Iowa Department of Education
2. Redesigning High Schools/Improving Connections

#### Ongoing Policy Initiatives – Development Stage

1. Community Colleges – An Investment in the Future
2. Inclusive Schools/Decreasing the Achievement Gap

#### Ongoing Policy Initiatives – Implementation Stage

1. Teacher Quality
2. Leadership Development
3. Early Childhood Education

This framework is designed to provide the Board with information for making policy decisions in these areas.

#### **“Joint Conversation” with Education Representatives**

Representatives from Iowa Association of School Boards, Iowa State Education Association, School Administrators of Iowa, Area Education Agencies and Iowa Association of Community College Trustees were in attendance to meet with the State Board of Education. The joint conversation originated at the State Board of Education’s annual retreat in June. The following four key issues were identified:

- Our focus on learning or student achievement
- The public perception about education
- Resources and funding
- Politics

Kay Forsythe, group facilitator, led the follow-up discussion focused on how education fits into the long-term future of the state; the need for collaboration with business and economic groups; the difference between public support and public perception (both of which may be on the decline), the need for leadership development and importance of intergenerational community involvement.

Forsythe indicated the group agreed on the need for an umbrella communication plan that would focus on common advocacy areas for Iowa’s educational system, but would also allow for each group within the system to speak with an individual voice to its own constituencies. It was also agreed that the DE would name a communications subcommittee to work on the plan and submit recommendations to the full committee.

Director Stilwill handed out a list of proposed topics for the October meeting.

President Hadley adjourned the meeting.